

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 106525  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /119 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JHMORTON:VSS  
APPROVED BY C:NIMETZ  
EUR/SE:RCEWING  
EUR:REBARBOUR

-----061558 262016Z /75

P R 261937Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, GR, TU, CY, US

SUBJECT: CALL ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ BY GREEK DEPUTY FOREIGN  
MINISTER

1. GREEK DEPUTY FOREIGN SECRETARY ZAIMIS CALLED ON COUNSE-  
LOR NIMETZ APR 24. ZAIMIS WAS IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWING HIS  
PARTICIPATION IN THE BILDERBERG CONFERENCE AT PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY.

2. ZAIMIS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE TURKISH  
CYPRIOT PROPOSALS AND SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS NOW  
WAITING FOR THE UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM TO DO SOMETHING TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 106525

BREAK THE IMPASSE WHICH HAS BEEN MADE EVEN WORSE BY THE  
UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS. IN HIS MIND, THE SEC GEN WOULD HAVE  
TO CONVINCE THE TURKS TO IMPROVE UPON THE PROPOSALS BEFORE  
THEY COULD BE CONSIDERED AS A BASIS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS.

3. NIMETZ EMPHASIZED THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS  
WERE THEIR FIRST POSITION AND SOMETHING WHICH THE GREEK

SIDE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE UPON DURING ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS. ZAIMIS SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN HOPEFUL THAT THE PROPOSALS WOULD BE SOMETHING MORE THAN THEY TURNED OUT TO BE. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY WERE IN ESSENCE OFFERING TO RETURN ONLY ONE PERCENT OF TERRITORY, IF ONE

CONSIDERED THAT THE OTHER TWO PERCENT WAS THE UN-CONTROLLED BUFFER ZONE. IF THE TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL HAD EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO RETURN FAMAGUSTA, 50,000 REFUGEES WOULD BE ABLE TO GO BACK AND THAT WOULD AT LEAST BE SOMETHING FOR THE KYPRIANOU GOVERNMENT TO POINT TO. NIMETZ NOTED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT UNDER THE CURRENT PROPOSAL THE TURKS JUDGED THAT 30,000 REFUGEES WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN. ZAIMIS SAID THAT THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE RETURNING TO AREAS UNDER TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION.

4. NIMETZ ASKED FOR ZAIMIS' PERSONAL OPINION ON WHAT THE US SHOULD BE DOING IN THE CURRENT SITUATION. ZAIMIS SAID THAT, AS A FIRST STEP, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CONCENTRATE OUR ATTENTION ON CONVINCING THE TURKS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON VAROSHA. THAT WOULD BE A START AND WOULD CONCEIVABLY PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INCENTIVE FOR THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATING.

5. NIMETZ TOLD THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE  
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PAGE 03 STATE 106525

PRESENT PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE ON THE ISLAND WAS BAD, AND THAT IF WE LOSE THIS OPPORTUNITY WE MAY ENTER A LONG PERIOD WHEN PROGRESS ON CYPRUS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTAIN. THE MORE TIME THAT PASSES, THE MORE ATTITUDES BECOME FROZEN. IF THE EMBARGO IS NOT LIFTED, TURKEY WILL CONSIDER IT HAS SUFFERED A MAJOR REBUFF AND IT WILL CREATE NEW PROBLEMS WHICH INEVITABLY WILL ALSO HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON US-GREEK RELATIONS.

6. ZAIMIS SAID IT WAS HIS HOPE THAT IN DEALING WITH EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES THE GREEK INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT WAS CLEARLY ON THE DEFENSIVE AS WAS PROVEN BY THE DIFFICULTY IT HAD IN GETTING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR THE RECENT ANTI-TERRORISM BILL. PAPANDREOU'S PASOK PARTY AND THE MOSCOW-ORIENTED PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR HAD CAPTURED 35 PERCENT OF THE VOTES IN THE LAST ELECTION, MAINLY CAPITALIZING ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. KARAMANLIS IS PUSHING HARD ON PROGRAMS WHICH WILL ENSURE GREATER GREEK ASSOCIATION WITH THE WEST, SUCH AS ITS APPLICATION FOR ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. BUT IT IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT NOW WITH THE MAIN OPPOSITION LEADER CLEARLY

WORKING AGAINST ENTRY.

7. IN RESPONSE TO NIMETZ' QUESTION CONCERNING PROSPECTS FOR GREEK-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS, ZAIMIS WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO RESOLUTION OF GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES IN THE AEGEAN. NIMETZ SAID

THAT HE HAD BEEN IN LONDON RECENTLY WITH THE SECRETARY FOR THE CENTO MEETINGS AND THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE TURKS WERE UPSET THAT THE GREEKS HAD CANCELED THE THEODOROPOULOS-ELEKDAG TALKS. ZAIMIS SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM TO SEEK LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, THESE WERE VERY DIFFICULT DAYS IN ATHENS AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THIS MOVE TO TRY TO CALM THINGS DOWN.  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 106525

IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT DOMESTICALLY FOR THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT TO BE ACTIVELY NEGOTIATING WITH THE TURKS AT THIS DELICATE TIME.

8. THE MEETING ENDED WITH A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE GREEK-NATO SITUATION. BOTH NIMETZ AND ZAIMIS FELT THE TALKS WERE GOING WELL AND THAT CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS AT THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL LEVEL OFFERED THE BEST PROSPECT FOR RESOLVING THESE ISSUES. BOTH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE TASK FORCE CONCEPT VS. REGIONAL COMMAND IN THE AEGEAN WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE BUT BOTH ZAIMIS AND NIMETZ AGREED THAT WE SHOULD WORK TOWARD FULL GREEK RETURN TO THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION OF NATO UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH MEET PRESENT-DAY REALITIES. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MINISTER COUNSELORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE106525  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JHMORTON:VSS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780178-1153  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2839482  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CALL ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ BY GREEK DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PGOV, GR, TU, CY, US, (NIMETZ, MARTIN), (ZAIMIS)  
**To:** ATHENS  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1aae2fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014